ECONOMIC UPDATE
AUGUST 2016

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ECONOMIC INDICATORS

The New Housing Price Index for St. John's Metro was 151.9 in May 2016 up 0.5%*

The Consumer Price Index for St. John's Metro was 132.7 in June 2016 up 2.3%*

Retail trade for Newfoundland and Labrador was $761.8 million in May 2016 up 3.2%*

* same month in the previous year.

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

St. John's Metro, (seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average)

	June 16	Chg.*
Labour Force	127,100	2.2%
Unemployment Rate	6.8%	0.4 pt
Employment Rate	65.5%	0.3 pt
Participation Rate	70.1%	0.4 pt

* same month in the previous year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

St. John's named as Canada's Sixth Most Business Friendly

Canada Business and PROFIT magazines recently released the results from a survey of some 60 municipalities with populations of 15,000 or more, awarding each city scores on factors such as the cost of office space, the speed of processing a building permit, the percentage of residents, in addition to independent demographic and market data. St. John's ranked sixth in the *Most Business Friendly* sub-list of the overall survey. On the overall survey, St. John's was ranked the 19th Best Place for Business in Canada for 2016. The purpose of the report is to help entrepreneurs and executives make decisions on where to start, expand, or relocate their enterprises. View the full report at:
www.profitguide.com/microsite/best-places/2016/

Supporting the Attraction and Retention of Immigrants

The first-ever Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Immigration Agreement was signed in July. The agreement formalizes and builds on the existing collaborative relationship between Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador on immigration matters, including the Provincial Nominee Program - the provincially driven program that fast-tracks identified individuals with job offers to permanent residency. An immigration pilot project for Atlantic Canada was also announced allowing up to 2,000 additional immigrants and their families in to the Atlantic region each year for three years. Newfoundland and Labrador has been experiencing growth in immigration. In 2015, Newfoundland and Labrador welcomed over 1,100 new permanent residents, a new record.

WestJet to offer weekly direct flight from St. John's to Tampa in 2017

Beginning April 7, 2017 WestJet will offer a weekly direct flight from St. John's to Tampa, Florida. The airline will also expand its Toronto-Gander connection. Beginning Oct. 24 of this year, the flight will be offered four times per week.

ST. JOHN'S

Business Approvals

Marie's Mini Mart
337 Water Street

Dollarama
60 Elizabeth Avenue

Dairy Queen
2-8 Great Southern Drive

Restaurant
11 Barrows Road

New Home - Based Businesses

M and D Cleaning Services
2 Solway Crescent

Family Home Child Care
84 Rotary Drive

Business Consulting
14 Kenai Crescent

Travel Consulting
8 Dauntless Street

Electrical Contractor
19 Douglas Street

Virtual Assistant
66 Della Drive

Total Year to Date	**78**
Regular	41
Home-based	37

City Building Permits (Year-to-date as of July 25, 2016)

Type	2015	2016	% Variance
Commercial	$99,440,000	$74,723,000	-25
Industrial	$0	$0	0
Government/Institutional*	$8,729,000	$6,000,000	-31
Residential	$48,063,000	$39,787,000	-17
Repairs	$2,446,000	$2,536,000	4
Total	$158,678,000	$123,046,000	-22

* Government/institutional data doesn't include the full range of permit activity undertaken by the provincial government and its agencies.

Upcoming Events

Webinar: How to Survive and Thrive in International Markets	Aug. 9	http://tradecommissioner.gc.ca
Selected Areas in Cryptography Conference	Aug. 10-12	www.engr.mun.ca/~sac2016
Boost your Business with Facebook	Aug. 15	https://fbsaintjohns.eventfarm.com
Restorative Justice in Education workshop	Aug. 17-19	www.nlta.nl.ca
Canadian Fastpitch Championships	Aug. 28 - Sept. 4	www.softball.ca
Petrocultures 2016: the Offshore	Aug. 31 - Sept. 3	http://petrocultures2016.ca
St. John's Board of Trade 101	Sept. 9	www.bot.nf.ca

CITY INITIATIVES

St. John's Economic Outlook 2016

Economic Outlook 2016 reports that economic growth in the St. John's Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is expected to increase marginally this year, with real gross domestic product (GDP) expected to increase by 0.7%. Retail sales are expected to grow by 1.4% to reach $4.0 billion this year. Housing starts throughout 2016 are expected to decline by 25% to 739 units. The unemployment rate is expected to increase to 6.9%, compared to 6.5% in 2015.

The population of the St. John's CMA is estimated to grow to 216,800 persons, an increase of 1.2% compared to 2015. The demographics of the region have changed significantly over the past 30 years, and persons 55 years and over account for a larger percentage of the population. The report also discusses labour market activity among older workers, as they now account for larger shares of the labour force and employment.

View the full report in the Publications section under the heading City Hall at: **www.stjohns.ca**

ST. JOHN'S

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